



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY DENTAL ACTIVITY
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA 85613-7040

DSBJ-CDR (100)

24 November 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DENTAC PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Activity (DENTAC) Policy Letter #99-13
- Policy on Dental Prophylaxis Classification

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to establish policy for the optimal management of patients requiring dental hygiene procedures.

2. Reference:

a. AR 40-68, Quality Assurance.

b. Periodontal Screening and Recording: An Early Detection System, American Dental Association and The American Academy of Periodontology, 1992.

3. Explanation of Abbreviations and Terms:

CDT - Current Dental Terminology from the American Dental Association

DTA - Expanded Function Dental Assistants (job series 681)

Prophy Tech - dental assistants who have completed a structured, documented training program in dental prophylaxis under the direction of a dental officer.

Prophylaxis 1-2-3 coding system:

Prophy 1: Patients with light stain, plaque and supragingival calculus and a PSR score of 0, 1 or 2.

Prophy 2: Patients with moderate stain, plaque and supragingival calculus and a PSR score of 2 or 3.

Prophy 3: Patients with heavy stain, plaque, and supra and subgingival calculus and a PSR score of 2, 3 or 4.

RDH - Registered Dental Hygienists (job series 682)

X2 - Military Preventive Dentistry Specialists/Sergeants with training and certification with an MOS of 91EX2.

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4. Policy:

a. Dentists will annotate planned dental hygiene procedures using the Propy 1-2-3 coding system as described in para 3.

b. Patients will be appointed with providers as follows and in accordance with reference 2a:

Propy 3 - RDH or dentist

Propy 2 - 91EX2 or DTA

Propy 1 - Propy Tech or 91EX2

c. Dentists will indicate the frequency of recall appointments as determined by patient need.

d. Dentists may direct X2s or Propy Techs to perform an initial debridement procedure with subsequent care to be performed by an RDH.

e. Only dentists or RDHs may perform periodontal scaling and root planing, CDT code 04341.

f. If a patient needs Propy 1 and restorative care, do not schedule a separate hygiene appointment. Instead, perform the Propy 1 procedures during the restorative appointment.

//Signed By//

HARLAND G. LEWIS, JR.
Colonel, Dental Corps
Commanding

